



State of North Carolina
Utilities Commission

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September 19, 2005

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Ms. Marlene Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-204B
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Ms. Irene M. Flannery
Vice President, High Cost and Low Income Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street, N.W., Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: Certification of the Comparability of Residential Rates in Rural Areas of North Carolina Served by Non-Rural Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers to Urban Rates Nationwide Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 54.316, CC Docket No. 96-45 Released October 27, 2003
NCUC Docket No. P-100, Sub 133L

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Flannery:

The North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC), pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 54.316, hereby certifies that residential rates in rural areas of North Carolina served by non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers are comparable to urban rates nationwide. This certification is based on the fact that all rural residential rates in North Carolina are below the nationwide urban benchmark of \$34.21 and therefore comply with the "safe harbor" provision.

Please note that the only non-rural carrier receiving high cost support in North Carolina is North State Telephone Company d/b/a North State Communications (SAC 230491).

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Sanford
Chair

DL/pb

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